

occurrence of such strangely abnormal specimens should be a warning to those who would impugn certain 'lost' species which, it has been claimed, have existed only in the imagination of their describers. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Breeding of the Mockingbird near Boston, Mass.—On August 15, 1883, my brother, Mr. W. J. Townsend, shot two nearly full-grown Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottus*) at Arlington, Mass. He found them in a small thicket near a meadow, in company with an old one and two other young ones, which, however, he was unable to secure. The two he obtained were young birds, quite well feathered, their wings fully grown, but their tails decidedly shorter than in the adult. Later I made frequent excursions to the same and neighboring places, but did not succeed in discovering the rest of the family. On inquiry I learned that a farmer of the place, who had lived down in the South and was familiar with the Mockingbird, had seen one several times during the early part of the summer near his house, and heard him sing.

There seems, therefore, no reason to doubt that a pair of these birds bred at Arlington. Mr. William Brewster tells me there are no records of the breeding of the Mockingbird in Eastern Massachusetts, but the fact of their breeding several times near Springfield, Mass., is well known. — CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Boston, Mass.*

Dendroeca coronata in Southern New Hampshire in Summer.—On June 25, 1883, I shot an adult male of this bird in Hollis, N. H. It was in company with several broods of *D. virens*, etc. — WILLIAM H. FOX, *Washington, D. C.*

Nest and Habits of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).—A few miles south of Carberry, Manitoba, is a large spruce bush, and in the middle of it is a wide tamarack swamp. This latter is a gray mossy bog, luxuriant only with pitcher plants and *Droseræ*. At regular distances, as though planted by the hand of man, grow the slim straight tamaracks, grizzled with moss, but not dense, nor at all crowded; their light leafage casts no shade. They always look as though they were just about to end, though the swamp really continues for miles—the same dank, gray waste.

At times the Great-crested Flycatcher was heard uttering his whistling croak. Besides this the only noticeable sound was the clear song of a Warbler. It may be suggested by the syllables, *beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee*. It is like the song of the Golden-crowned Thrush, but differs in being in the same pitch throughout, instead of beginning in a whisper and increasing the emphasis and strength with each pair of notes to the last. Guided by the sound, I found the bird high in the tamaracks. It was not shy like the Wood Warblers, so it was easily secured. It proved to be a male Connecticut Warbler.

As I went on, a small bird suddenly sprang from one of the grave-like moss-mounds. It seemed distressed, and ran along with its wings held

up, like a Plover just alighting. On seeing that I would not be decoyed away, it ran around me in the same attitude. Recognizing that it was the Connecticut Warbler, I took it, and then sought out the nest in the moss. It was entirely composed of dry grass, and sunken level with the surface. The eggs, four in number, measured $.75 \times .56$ in. Before being blown they were of a delicate creamy white, with a few spots of lilac-purple, brown, and black, inclined to form a ring at the large end.

This nest was sent, with the parent birds, to the Smithsonian Institution; the identification was confirmed, and the nest deposited in the Museum. — ERNEST E. T. SETON. *Carberry, Manitoba.*

The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).—Dr. Elliot Coues has described so minutely the habits of the Laniidæ in his account of 'Shrikes in a State of Nature' (Birds of the Colorado Valley. Part I, 1878), that very little is left in the history of the Shrikes for other observers to record. However, an unusual incident (to me) in the nidification of *Lanius ludovicianus* came under my observation last spring, which I trust will be of interest enough to ornithologists to warrant a place in 'The Auk.' On May 19 I discovered the nest of this Shrike upon the central fork of a thorn tree, and almost within reach from the ground. As the nest contained only one egg, I did not then take it, but returned seven days later to find that two more eggs had been laid. As I wanted a specimen, I shot the bird as it arose from the nest, and it proved on dissection to be a female. I tried in vain to obtain the male, but he kept beyond range, appearing much excited and uttering constantly a peculiar note, similar to the sound produced by blowing through a pea-whistle. Six days later, I found a new and completed nest on the tree next to that which had held the one I took, and as I stood looking at it, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes flew close up to it. While watching them I wondered whether the male of the first nest could have procured another mate and built a nest in such a short time. Of course I could not solve this point, as I had nothing to identify the bird by; but I have since been informed by Mr. Chamberlain of St. John, N. B., that he had witnessed something similar, and was enabled to identify his bird by its having *only one eye*. I therefore think it fair to presume that the male of the first nest I obtained did arrange his second matrimonial venture within the six days. On discovering these nests I expected to find the 'Shrike's larder,' but after examining all of the thorn trees and bushes in the vicinity, I found not a single bird or insect impaled on any of them. — ERNEST D. WINTLE. *Montreal.*

Cowbirds in a Black-and-white Creeper's Nest.—In the spring of 1881 a friend reported finding a bird's nest with two sorts of eggs in it. Suspecting the solution of this mystery, I examined the nest some days later and found a couple of young Cowbirds, with gaping mouths but fat and plump. While entirely underneath them was an addled Cowbird's egg and two young Black-and-white Creepers, the latter nearly dead from starvation or suffocation — or both.